
**COOPERATION WITH AGENCIES THAT ARE NOT IN THE STATEWIDE
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM AND WITH OTHER ENTITIES 4.8(b)(1)**

Vocational Rehabilitation continues to work with multiple agencies and entities throughout the state. A number of these cooperative ventures are tied to our expansion of self-employment opportunities and our increased emphasis on employer services. This includes direct contact with local, state and regional lenders to assist clients in self-employment business start-up. Listed below are the primary businesses, agencies and groups with whom we are currently working. The only groups in this attachment, with whom we have a formal written agreement, are with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, and Department of Veteran's Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

North Dakota Department of Agriculture - Cooperative agreement with NDVR to assist with VR's Rural Services initiative. The department's Ag Mediation Division provides on-site assessments of the financial health and viability of the farm/ranch operation.

Department of Veteran's Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Program – Cooperative agreement with VAVR is to 'ensure seamless, coordinated, and effective VR services to North Dakota's veterans with disabilities, and their dependents with disabilities; to improve cooperation and collaboration between the two agencies; to avoid duplication of services; to improve interagency communication; and to establish staff cross-training opportunities.'

While we do not have formal written agreements with the following entities, state and regional VR staff work cooperatively with them as needed.

Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) – IPAT is North Dakota's Tech Act Program which provides assistive technology services throughout the state. IPAT provides consultation and assessment to VR staff and clients. Counselors utilize their lending library to see if technology is appropriate before purchasing it. The VR AT Program Administrator is on their advisory council.

Business Information Centers (BIC) – Located in Bismarck and Grand Forks, the BICs provide consultation and resources for VR clients on various aspects of establishing and maintaining a business.

Small Business Administration (SBA) – Ongoing coordination of shared training and education programs between SBA staff and VR staff.

Department of Commerce and local economic development groups – Offer resources for funding and business development for VR clients.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - Provides mentoring and consultation to VR clients who are developing business plans.

Lewis and Clark Development Corporation - Process revolving loan fund applications for VR clients pursuing self-employment.

Developmental Disabilities Council – Periodically provides monies for the revolving loan fund.

North Dakota Association for the Disabled (NDAD) – Occasionally provides monies to VR clients for non-employment related expenses.

North Dakota Chamber of Commerce - Cooperative training and information exchange. Regional VR staff are also members of their local chambers, and participate on various chamber committees. This enables VR to develop relationships with the business community.

Bank of North Dakota - Funding resource for start-up money and guaranteed loans for beginning entrepreneurs, including those who are VR clients.

Rocky Mountain Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) - Provides technical assistance, resources, education and training on disability issues including the ADA.

Center of Technology and Business – Provides technical assistance to VR clients in developing Business and Marketing plans.

North Dakota Center for People with Disabilities (NDCPD) at Minot State University – NDCPD also administers the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) in North Dakota. VR staff also serves as members of various MIG committees. NDVR also collaborated with NDCPD and DPI to update and produce the Transition CD, 'Taking the Next Step'.